CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)	DATE DISTR.	19 May 1950
SUBJECT	The Gröditz Steel Plant	NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED	25X1 [redacted]	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF INFO.		SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	25X1 [redacted]

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[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Comment :

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b. It is inferred from the following report that the open-hearth furnace in operation since August 1949, capacity allegedly 20 tons, does not meet the requirements of the plant, so that additional steel ingots must be supplied by the Riesa (N 52/E 31) and Doehlen-Freital (N 52/F 18) steel works. The three other open-hearth furnaces are still under construction.

c. The monthly output of wheel tires is only 2,000, although production of 3,000 tires per month was scheduled.

d. According to this report, not only the rolling mill, but also the hydraulic presses were returned by the Soviet Union; the steel plant had to pay the full price of new equipment for these installations, which are 20 years old.

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The Groeditz Steel Plant and Rolling Mill has at present a 20-ton open-hearth furnace, which recently has produced steel castings, in addition to steel ingots. The furnace is operated in three shifts, producing 60 tons of steel ingots for wheel tires per day. Operating with one shift, it casts 20 tons of steel castings, or in two shifts, 40 tons of steel ingots, according to the stock of orders. A second open-hearth furnace is under construction, and will be completed by late 1949. For the time being, steel ingots are supplied by the Doehlen Steel Plant in Freital/Dresden (N 52/F 18) and the Riesa Steel Plant (N 52/E 31), in addition to the steel ingots cast in Groeditz; the requirements for the rolling of tires are fully met by these three steel plants. Small ingots, corresponding in weight to the locomotive and freight car tires which have been ordered, are cast there. These small ingots are cast in series ("im Gespann"), and are rendered very impure by sand, the result being a considerable amount of rejects This inconvenience was pointed out at a meeting of the steel plant managers held in Groeditz on 3 October 1949., and the use of ingots weighing about 2,000 kg (4,410 lbs)in lieu of the small ingot molds of 400 to 750 kg was suggested.Disks corresponding to the weight of the various tires could be cut off cold from the large ingots on the cutting-off benches, the result being a considerable decrease in rejects. According to the Groeditz steel plant, it is not possible at present to get a sufficient number of cutting-off machines, so the method previously followed must be continued.

As already mentioned, the tire rolling mill was furnished with small ingots of adjusted weight, which were pressed and rolled into tires under the presses and rolls there. The pressing and rolling installation consists of a 2,000-ton hydraulic press, under which the small raw ingots were pressed down to disks at a temperature of 1250°C; they were holed in the same manner, and were finally taken to a second press of 1,000 tons where the holed pieces were shaped on an anvil beak, fitted with a wheel flange, and pressed to the required thickness, after which they were transported to the roll. The pressing, forging and rolling operations took about 8 to 10 minutes per piece; thus, about 50 tires could be finished in one shift. The monthly output, therefore,was about 2,000 tires, considering the percentage of rejects

The presses and the rolling mill were dismantled by the Soviets in 1946, packed in boxes, and transported to the Black Sea. Because of certain conditions, especially lack of money, the machines were re-shipped from the Soviet Union and the German economy had to pay the shipping expenses and the cost-price value. The whole plant had been in operation for about 20 years. According to its present condition, it will last 5 to 8 years, and one must not lose sight of the fact that both neatness of workmanship and accuracy will drop considerably from year to year and that the effect of these factors is necessarily felt in the mechanical treatment. As everywhere in the Soviet Zone, extreme performance is demanded of machines and men, despite utterly obsolete machinery; the result is that wear and tear per time unit is at least twice that of previous average working

conditions. Expansion of the Groeditz steel plant by three 40-ton furnaces and one 20-ton furnace is scheduled in 1950. They are planned especially for the tire rolling mill and production of steel castings. Two more 40-ton open-hearth furnaces will be set up for the planned forging press installation.

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